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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

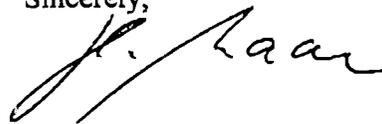
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I have been extremely concerned over the regrettable lawsuit against Microsoft; I believe that Microsoft has been--and still is--one of the most instrumental American businesses to drive and sustain the longest running and strongest economic expansion in recent memory. I also believe that unless there is some real threat to the American free enterprise system, the government should always refrain from interfering in business. There seem to be two diametrically opposed guiding principles at work: On the one hand, the government seems to do its best to provide free (tax-supported) services to any it can find, while the American business ethic demands quality and efficiency. Mixing the two--as was done with this lawsuit--only results in havoc and confusion.

More specifically, where the American consumer is greatly aided in Microsoft's efforts to integrate its software with its operating system, the government--no doubt spurred on by less successful Microsoft competitors--sees a phantom threat of "monopolization." For those of us that actually spend our hard-earned money on the necessary hardware and software needed to be even a little productive in this computer age, you had better believe that we look for integration rather than confusion.

I am writing this letter as a citizen invoking the Tunney Act, and I would like to respectfully request that you continue to do everything that is possible to protect the terms of this settlement. Do not let those parties, looking for excuses to derail it, succeed. We as consumers deserve better than that. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Herbert Maar